

Department of Juvenile Justice

Disproportionate Minority Confinement

Information Sheet – September 2006

In May 2006 the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) held a Leadership Conference with some of our youth serving partners. The theme of the Conference was "Collaboration for Success" and the goal of the conference was to foster communication, cooperation and collaboration via work groups and to produce outcomes that would be used to develop a strategic plan for DJJ with the ultimate goal to reduce DJJ's recidivism rates.

Recidivism rates are a form of measuring our success in working with individuals that come before the juvenile justice system, and the official DJJ recidivism definition is based on measures of reconviction. Our Data Resource Guide (DRG) has an entire section devoted to Reoffense Rates (pages 181 – 189) with definitions of the various rates along with the corresponding data. Please take the time to read that section of the DRG because it will give you a thorough understanding of the reoffense measurement process. If you don't have a hard copy of the DRG please access it by going to our website at www.djj.virginia.gov and look under the heading – **Resources – to the left of the screen** - then follow the prompts from there.

The **two attachments** you have give you some **state DMC data as well as regional data** with an **emphasis on youth that were committed** to our juvenile correctional centers – you have the population data for calendar year 2004 by percentages and the percentages with actual numbers of youth committed by race and ethnicity for fiscal year 2005. The data divided in the three regions of our state gives you a more specific look at your particular regional location.

The information that I have provided is just that, **information only**, and not meant to place blame or guilt on our system. Take the opportunity to use the data as a guide when considering programs and services – how we can impact youth of color in a positive and productive way. Basically, what risk factors should be considered and what sanctions could be used to provide consequences for delinquent behavior without the possible confinement and ultimate commitment of youth while keeping public safety at the forefront.

Additionally, how can we continue to help all youth remain delinquent free and become successful individuals?

DMC - Virginia DJJ

Data Resource Guide Information

FY 05

Population (Calendar Year 2004)	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian, Native American & Other
Ages 10-17	64%	24%	6%	6%
Intake	47.0%	45.5%	4.8%	2.6%
Detention	40.3%	51.4%	6.2%	2.1%
JCC	27.1% (253)	66.7% (638)	4.3% (31)	1.8% (15)

DJJ – DMC Commitments by Region

**Data
from
FY 05**

Population (Calendar Year 2004) Ages 10-17	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian, Native American & Other
Eastern Region Pop.	53%	39%	4%	4%
Eastern Region - JCC	19% (102)	80% (431)	0 (2)	1% (7)
Northern Region Pop.	66%	15%	10%	9%
Northern Region – JCC	38% (95)	48% (122)	12% (29)	2% (6)
Western Region Pop.	79%	17%	2%	2%
Western Region - JCC	39% (56)	59% (85)	0	1% (2)